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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-10

SAJ-01 EUR-12 /084 W
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R 300055Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7470
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 7010

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, IEA; CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR: SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TW
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - FOLLOWING KISSINGER'S CHINA TRIP TAIWAN MEDIA GENERALLY STRESSING NO DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS EXPECTED DURING FORD TRIP DUE INSOLVABLE PRC-U.S. DIFFERENCES. PRC WANTS CONTINUING U.S. ASIAN PRESENCE AND ISN'T PUSHING ON TAIWAN ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGED FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN'S REMARKS TO LEGISLATIVE YUAN'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-ROC RELATIONSHIPS TWICE SINCE FALL INDOCHINA AND PLEDGED HONOR U.S. TREATY COMMITMENTS. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (380,000) SAID SHEN (1) CONTENDED THAT FORD'S PRC VISIT WILL NOT INVOLVE ANY BREAKTHROUGH
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DEVELOPMENT, (2) U.S. HAS SPELLED OUT ITS CHINA POLICY

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BASED ON PRINCIPLES MAINTAINING ROC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMITMENTS WHILE ALSO ACHIEVING NORMALIZATION RELATIONS WITH PRC IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, (3) FORD VISIT FACES DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF INSOLVABLE PRC-U.S. DIFFERENCES OVER BASIC PROBLEMS AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

3. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (350,000) WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JACK CHOW REPORTED SENATOR JAVITS TELLING HIM: (1) U.S. SHOULD END ASIAN ALLIES ANXIETIES AND RESTORE U.S. CREDIBILITY WITH NEW ASIAN POLICY IN WAKE INDOCHINA DEBACLES; (2) ERA OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ASIAN GROUND WARS HAS PASSED; (3) TIME FOR U.S.-PRC NORMALIZE RELATIONS NOT YET RIPE; (4) HOREAN ISSUE MOST PRESSING ASIAN MATTER BECAUSE ITS EXPLOSIVE NATURE; (5) SEATO NO LONGER FITS ASIAN NEEDS AND SHOULD BE SCRAPPED; (6) JAVIT'S PEKING VISIT HELPED HIM REALIZE THAT COMMUNIST CHINESE DON'T WANT FURTHER U.S. ASIAN WITHDRAWALS LEAVING VACUUM FOR RUSSIANS; (7) ROC-U.S. DEFENSE TREATY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND ITS EFFECTIVE INDEFINITELY UNLESS EITHER PARTY WANTS END IT; (8) PRC NOT ANXIOUS FOR TAIWAN ISSUE SOLUTION SINCE THEY HAVE GAINED HOLDING POSITION WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

4. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (270,000) LISTED FOLLOWING U.S.-PRC DIFFERENCES: (1) SEVERE PRC ATTACKS AGAINST U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE AND KISSINGER'S DEFENSE OF IT, (2) PRC PERSISTENCE ON U.S. ROK WITHDRAWAL AND KISSINGER'S REFUSAL, (3) COOLNESS SHOWN BY CHINESE COMMUNISTS DURING KISSINGER VISIT, PARTICULARLY UPON DEPARTURE, (4) FAILURE ANNOUNCE DATE FOR FORD VISIT DUE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. PAPER ALSO NOTED: (1) PLANS FOR FORD VISIT CONTINUE DESPITE MUCH OPPOSITION, (2) KISSINGER'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF U.S.-PRC TIES, (3) MAO TSE-TUNG'S SURPRISINGLY LONG MEETING WITH KISSINGER PLUS SIGNS U.S.-CHOU EN-LAI RELATIONSHIP ENDED, (4) PRC WILL CONTINUE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN WITH KOREA THE MAIN ISSUE.

5. TOKYO CORRESPONDENTS OF UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA TIMES REPORTED KISSINGER TOLD FM MIYAZAWA: (1) U.S.
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WILL STICK TO ANTI-HEGEMONY STAND STIPULATED IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, (2) PEKING WON'T BUY IDEA OF FOUR-NATION CONFERENCE ON KOREA, (3) PRC DOESN'T WANT SALT AGREEMENT, (4) PEKING WANTS CONTINUATION U.S.-SOVIET CONFRONTATION.

6. UNITED DAILY NEWS COMMENTATOR SAID SO LONG AS DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN DETENTE AND APPEASEMENT REMAIN CLEAR, AND DISTINCTION BETWEEN FRIENDS AND FOES REMAINS

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EVIDENT, U.S. WILL CONTINUE SEE ITS INTERESTS ALIGNED WITH FREE WORLD AND AVOID COMMUNIST CHINESE TRAPS. FORD'S TRIP WILL BE POLITICAL JOURNEY ONLY NO MATTER HOW PRC WANTS IT, BECAUSE OF BASIC U.S-PRC DIFFERENCES. U.S. WILL MAKE NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO PRC DURING FORD VISIT.

7. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGED CNA-WASHINGTON REPORT THAT TEN MORE U.S. CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT PRO-ROC RESOLUTION, BRINGING TOTAL TO 182. CNA ALSO RELAYED PANAMA CITY (FLORIDA) PANAMANIAN STAR STORY QUOTING CONGRESSMAN STEVE SYMMNS SAYING ONLY 10 PERCENT AMERICANS FAVOR PRC RECONGNITION WITH 72 PERCENT OPPOSED ADVANCING U.S.-PRC RELATIONS ACCORDING UNSPECIFIED RECENT POLL.

8. MOST MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED CNA-NEW YORK FULL TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL SAYING BASIC ELEMENTS U.S.-PRC RELATIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED. UNITED DAILY NEWS CARRIED AP-WASHINGTON REPORT QUOTING WASHINGTON STAR PREDICTING FORD'S CHINA TRIP WILL BE HIS LONGEST JORNEY WITH LEAST RESULTS TO SHOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI07010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750376-0208
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975108/aaaaagvm.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, TW
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006